

Ohio Energy Project Board Meeting

Date: August 6, 2020 Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Meeting via Skype

Board Members Present:

Scott Potter, Ohio State University – President
Devin Parram, Bricker & Eckler – Vice President
T.J. Faze, Vertiv – Treasurer
Barry Schumann, AEP – Secretary
Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation -- trustee
Andrew Finton, North Central Electric Cooperative – trustee
Jeanne Gogolski, EducationProjects.org – trustee
Keelie Gustin, Miami Valley Community Action -- trustee
Holly Karg, American Municipal Power – trustee
Jill Kocher, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio – board partner
Chris Monacelli, Westerville Electric Division – trustee
Janet Rehberg, Ohio's Electric Cooperatives – trustee
Stjepan Vlahovich, Ground Level Solutions – trustee
Bill Yost, retired USGS hydrologist – trustee

Board Members Not Present:

Jackie Bird, consultant – Governance Chair
Susan Moser-Spiert, energy efficiency consultant – trustee
Ryan Stredney, Columbia Gas of Ohio -- trustee

OEP Staff Present:

Shauni Nix, Executive Director
Kelsey Beach, education coordinator
Monique Heath, education coordinator
Liza Richard, finance manager
Jessica Sarber, manager of strategic partnerships
Sue Tenney, education director

Guests Present:

Matt Kline, 2019-20 OSU Fisher School of Business Board Fellow
Courtney Freyhauf, Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council
Samantha Hart, Milepost Consulting

Call to Order:

President Scott Potter called the meeting to order and thanked all in attendance for participating via Skype. Potter welcomed new board trustee Keelie Gustin, director of energy assistance programs, Miami Valley Community Action. Gustin said she is looking forward to working with the board and OEP. Potter also welcomed guest Courtney Freyhauf, who is with the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council and has an education background. She is interested in learning more about the board and OEP. Finally, Potter recognized Rehberg, who announced in July she will be leaving Ohio's Electric Cooperatives in August to

take a position with an electric cooperative in Texas. Potter thanked Rehberg for her service on the board, noting her wealth of enthusiasm and ideas for the organization and for the education of students and teachers.

Consent Agenda:

Scott Potter noted the consent agenda and minutes of the June board meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. No one had any comments on the agenda or minutes. Potter called for a motion. Dale Arnold moved to approve the consent agenda and minutes; Bill Yost seconded. Potter called the vote. Motion carried.

Finance Report:

T.J. Faze gave an update of the organization's financials in light of reduced funding from AEP Ohio as a result of House Bill 6, which eliminated state energy standards and the source of about \$900,000 in AEP Ohio funding for energy efficiency education programs. As a result, the organization's annual budget is projected at about \$1.1 million, slightly more than half of the typical \$2 million. An effort in cooperation with AEP Ohio to get Facebook to provide funding of about \$800,000 appeared promising until Facebook informed OEP the grant would actually be \$200,000. OEP has asked Facebook to reconsider, requesting a total of \$500,000. Facebook has yet to announce a decision. AEP Ohio is looking at how it might help with funding. Scott Potter and Devin Parram agreed to discuss the situation further.

Potter noted financials for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year will be presented at the board meeting in October.

Milepost Workshop Results:

Samantha Hart of Milepost Consulting led a discussion of the process thus far in which her organization will provide approximately \$5,000 in free consultations for OEP as one of four winners of the MilepostConsulting.com Challenge. Results of a facilitated SOAR (Strengths-Opportunities—Aspirations-Results) Strategy Workshop conducted with board members June 29 by Milepost were shared prior to the meeting. Hart reviewed the results, noting the focus of a SOAR analysis is to address the aspirations of the organization by focusing on the positives rather than becoming bogged down in perceived weaknesses which can be appropriately addressed as the organization creates a plan. Hart said the next steps of the process involve creating a tactical plan to help OEP become a lean, mean operating machine that effectively meets its mission and objectives. An important element will be to create a more compelling story for funders and other stakeholders.

HB 6 Update:

Devin Parram led discussion about the unfolding investigation into charges against former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder and associates including a \$60 million racketeering conspiracy involving a 2019 nuclear power plant bailout bill – HB 6 – that Householder helped pass. HB 6 is relevant to OEP because the bill also eliminated state energy standards that included a mechanism for Ohio electric utilities such as AEP Ohio and DP&L to support energy efficiency education through OEP's e3 programs. Parram said there are discussions around proposed repeal and/or replacement of HB 6. If repealed, there are questions around whether energy efficiency standards would be reinstated temporarily. If the bill is repealed and replaced in order to support the viability of two nuclear power plants, there are questions around whether energy efficiency standards would be eliminated or retained. Parram said the fact is simply there is significant uncertainty on the fate of HB 6 including what will happen, how quickly it will happen, and what is next.

Shauni Nix asked how a voluntary demand side management plan filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio in June by AEP Ohio might be impacted by the HB 6 issue. Parram said the PUCO has 275 days to make a decision on the filing, and that AEP Ohio has asked for an additional 60 days for a ruling. He said that means any decision on the filing could come well into 2021. Potter observed the AEP Ohio filing and the HB 6 issue suggests up to another year of uncertainty around energy efficiency program funding.

Development Update:

Shauni Nix reported her discussions with Chase Bank indicate the organizations checking account with the bank is generally safe from fraud risks up to the full amount, and in the case of the bank's insolvency would be covered up to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. maximums. Chase suggested OEP set up a savings account to reduce the risk in case of bank insolvency as each account is covered separately by FDIC.

Nix reported staff continues working with Battelle on the opportunity to submit a grant request.

Jessica Sarber reported OEP received a matching gift payment of \$5,318 through the Columbus Foundation's Big Give matching gift initiative in June. She thanked board members for their support of The Big Give.

Sarber noted the 2019 OEP Annual Report digital version was included in the board meeting materials, and a physical version of the report will be mailed to all board members. Any board member who would like additional hard copies of the report should contact Sarber.

Sarber continues to work with marketing consultant Creative Spot to produce various marketing documents, an impact video and impact graphics that OEP and board members can use to tell and sell the organization's story.

Sarber thanked OSU Fisher School of Business Board Fellow Matt Kline for his significant research into funding prospects, and said they will continue to expand the portfolio of prospects. She said a goal is to have a list of prospects by September. She asked that board members consider joining OEP staff in making presentations to prospective funders, assist in identifying personal contacts at prospective funders, or help in researching additional prospective funders.

Scott Potter complimented Sarber and OEP on recent marketing messages, stating they were on point and to the point.

Shauni Nix asked board members for any assistance with contacts at M/I Schottenstein, and Bill Yost suggested contacting Big Lots for funding.

Education Update:

Sue Tenney reported OEP with funding from the Martha Jennings Holden Foundation conducted 22 hands-on science professional development programs for elementary school teachers on 11 dates in July. She said 126 teachers attended the programs, and will in turn reach about 7,000 students. Tenney said educators were very appreciative of the programs including resources and guidance on how to share learning effectively via distance learning.

Tenney said fall programs are on hold as school districts continue to release and, in many cases revise, their plans for the coming school year. She said the elimination of field trips will impact programs such as energy summits and energy workshops that involve students traveling to attend the programs.

Monique Heath said registration is underway for the e3 energy efficiency education programs, with the programs halfway toward OEP's goals. Heath said OEP is adapting the program to include online virtual professional development, live Q&A sessions, live demos and e3 Wednesdays every other month to enable staff and participating teachers to come together virtually to discuss the program and related topics.

Shauni Nix noted that in response to the pandemic, most staff have been working from home because of limited space in the office for social distancing. Looking forward to the time when Franklin County is no longer at Level Red, Nix said staff will find ways to work together in person while still following applicable health and safety guidance.

Adjournment:

Before calling for a motion to adjourn, Scott Potter complimented the OEP staff for their commitment to finding new ways to serve students and educators during the pandemic. He said OEP pays attention to the details.

Potter also offered Janet Rehberg an opportunity to speak before leaving the board and Ohio for her new position in Texas. Rehberg complimented staff and the board for their shared passion for education, students and teachers.

Potter called for a motion. Bill Yost moved to adjourn; T.J. Faze seconded. Potter called the vote. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

-Recorded by B. Schumann, secretary

Upcoming OEP events:

Please see www.ohioenergy.org/events for latest updates pending developments with the coronavirus pandemic.

Ohio's Electric Cooperative Be e3 Virtual Training – Aug. 7

Dayton Public Schools third- and fourth-grade Professional Development – Aug. 13

Worthington City Schools third- and fourth-grade Professional Development – Aug. 19

OEP Board retreat – Oct. 1

OEP Board meeting – Dec. 3

Board members are encouraged to attend any OEP event. See www.ohioenergy.org/events for information on upcoming events or contact OEP staff for specific event information.